factor. After the new GSP Scheme of EU, Indian bicycles attract 12.7% duty in the EU.

(c) Yes, a representation has been received from the Federation of Engineering Exports Organisation and Engineering Export Promotion Council against the drawback notification No. 39/97 datd 10.9.97.

(d) A corrigendum has since been issued on 17.11.97 increasing the capping rates on five items of bicycle spare parts.

Trade between India and erstwhile Soviet Union and CIS countries

661. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of trade between India and the erstwhile Soviet Union before its disintegration;

(b) the value of trade between India and the countries of erstwhile Soviet Union during 1996-97;

(c) the main items in which the decline in trade has occurred; and

(d) the steps taken to increase trade between India and these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The value of trade between India and the erstwhile Soviet Union during 1990-91 was Rs. 7803 crores.

(b) The value of trade between India and CIS and Baltic countries during 1996-97 was Rs. 5829 crores.

(c) The main items in which the decline in trade has occurred include tea, coffee, cashew, cosmetics and toiletries, chemicals, pulp and waste paper cotton raw and waste, fertilizers manufactured, iron and steel, etc.

(d) The government has initiated several measures for boosting Indo-CIS trade. These measures include regular review of trade between India and the countries of this region through meetings of Joint Commission, Working Groups and Joint business councils, encouraging consignment sales and opening of warehouses, broad-basing the basket of tradable goods, signing of agreements, opening of Indian Banks, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions and exchange of delegations.

Removal of quantitative restrictions on import of Consumers Goods

662. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are moving towards removal of quantitative restrictions (QRS) on imports of consumer goods; and

(b) whether Government are aware that the move has shaken up the domestic manufacturers of consumer goods as the lifting of QRS will have a tremendous adverse impact on it; if so, what steps have been taken up by Government to re-establish the confidence of domestic industry; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH)A (a) to (b) Article XI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 provides that no prohibitions or restrictions other than duties, taxes or charges, whether made effective through quotas, import or export licences or other measures shall be maintained by any Member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). However, under the exceptional provisions of Article XVIII of the GATT, India has some residual quantitative restrictions on imports maintained for balance of payments purposes. In May, 1997, India has presented to the WTO a plan for the elimination of these restrictions on imports, including those on consumer goods. This plan was considered at the consultations with India of the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions in June-July, 1997, when noting the divergence of opinion